

For Immediate Release

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Detroit City Council budget should not lead to any lay-offs of Police, Fire-Fighters or employees delivering key services

(Detroit, MI...) The Detroit City Council worked tirelessly for weeks and weeks to address critical budget issues that threatened the City's very survival; as the Council Members revised the proposed budget submitted by Mayor Dave Bing by enacting a \$31 million-dollar budget reduction to counter "soft" revenue projections cited in the Mayor's proposal which were "unrealistic" in the opinion of the Council's Fiscal Director. However, if Mayor Bing's soft revenue projections do materialize, they can always be introduced in the form of a Budget Amendment during the course of the year.

The City Council approved budget should not lead to any employee lay-offs (including Police and Fire-Fighters). Council budget cuts were made necessary by Mayor Bing's decision to increase the executive budget by a million dollars, as he added a layer of group executives to the City's overhead costs; in addition to the inclusion of "soft" revenue that posed serious risks for the City's fiscal stability.

All of the cuts proposed by the Council can be achieved by greater efficiencies, more prudent management, drastic reductions in the \$252 million contractual agreements with outside vendors currently in place without requiring lay-offs of Police and Fire-Fighters. All City Council members have publicly stated they want no reductions among Public Safety employees; and the legislative body has called for the Human Resources Department to more aggressively recruit and employ additional Police Officers recently subsidized by a Federal grant.

Finally, we wish to urge Mayor Bing to work with the Detroit City Council to provide collaborative leadership to upgrade the City's bond-rating, public safety, services to our constituents, efforts to promote jobs for heads of households, and a moratorium on foreclosures while addressing blight, promoting renewable energy options, expanded recycling and rapid transit.

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